

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner To for the indication that Claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if amended to address minor issues concerning certain claim wording. By this Amendment, Claims 2 and 3 are amended to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, without narrowing the claim scope. Accordingly, withdrawal of that claim rejection is respectfully requested. It is thus respectfully submitted that Claims 2-5 are allowable.

Noting the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to advance prosecution of this application, such claim is canceled. Thus, the rejection set forth in paragraph six of the Official Action is negated. Nevertheless, it is noted that the reference relied upon in the Official Action, U.S. Patent No. 7,129,659 to *Buma et al.*, is prior art against the claims of this application as its April 28, 2005 filing date does not precede the February 10, 2005 filing date of the international application upon which the present application is based. As this application was filed under 35 U.S.C. § 371 as a U.S. national stage application of the international application, this application is entitled to the February 10, 2005 filing date of the international application.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By:



Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32814

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620